



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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November 5, 2008

FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS ANDREWS MAN OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal jury in Midland this afternoon convicted 40-year-old John Eric Gilliam of Andrews, Texas, of the felony offenses of possession and receipt of child pornography.

Evidence at the trial, which began Monday morning, established that investigators with the Cybercrimes Unit of the Texas Attorney General's Office commenced an investigation of Gilliam as a consequence of a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children concerning his online activities. In September 2006, Gilliam's computer was seized in Andrews. A subsequent forensic examination of the computer led to the recovery of more than 200 sexually explicit images of prepubescent children that had been downloaded from the Internet. A police officer from Idaho testified at trial that some of the images in Gilliam's collection depicted a small girl who had been molested in that state by one of her relatives several years ago, the investigation of which the officer had personally handled.

Gilliam faces between five and 20 years in federal prison. He is scheduled for sentencing in February 2009.

Assistant United States Attorney Katy Risinger prosecuted on behalf of the Government.

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